Janata Cloth Scheme

3199. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have phased out the Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, since when and the number of handloom weavers displaced on account of the phasing out the Scheme; and

(c) the details of steps taken to provide them alternate employment?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The decision to phase out the Janata Cloth Scheme by the terminal year of VIII Five year Plan was taken in 1992-93. The Scheme has been phased out with effect from 1.4.98. During the year 1997-98, an estimated 79,000 number of handloom weavers were benefitted from the Scheme. The decision to phase out the Scheme was communicated from time to time to the State Govts. So that effective steps may be taken by them to switch over the weavers to the production of non janata items. For this purpose, Package-II under the Janata Cloth Scheme was introduced in the year 1993-94 and the releases were made under the Scheme based on the viable proposals received from the State Govts. The Scheme, however, was extended for the year 1997-98 so as to facilitate the transition. The Govt. have meanwhile been providing assistance under various other Handloom Schemes which provide for input supplies, training, design development, marketing, infrastructure development etc. In order to ensure that the residual janata weavers are not put to any hardship, the State Govts. have recently been requested to assess the requirements of these weavers and send viable proposals under various handloom schemes including the Project Package Scheme.

Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres in Bardhman, Bhuj and Barabanki

3200. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts/area jurisdictions which are being looked after by the Bardhman (West Bengal), Bhuj (Gujarat) and Barabanki (U.P.) Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres, respectively;

(b) the standard staff strength of each Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre;

(c) whether the manpower strength of these Centres is sufficient to ensure proper development of handicrafts in such vast areas under their jurisdiction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to ensure development of handicrafts in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The districts/area of jurisdictions looked after by Burdwan (West Bengal), Bhuj (Gujarat) and Barabanki (U.P.) Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centres are as under.

1. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Burdwan (West Bengal)*

(i) Burdwan (ii) Bankura (iii) Purulia (iv) Hooghly (v) 24 Parganas (North) (vi) 24 Parganas (South) (vii) Hawrah (viii) Midnapur (ix) Mursheedabad (x) Birbhum (xi) Nadia.

2. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Bhuj (Gujarat)*

Whole Gujarat State and Dadar & Nagar Haveli.

3. *Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre, Barabanki (U.P.)*

(i) Barabanki (ii) Unnao (iii) Hardoi (iv) Lucknow (v) Faizabad (vi) Allahabad (vii) Mirzapur (viii) Jaunpur (ix) Ballia

(x) Gazipur (xi) Gonda (xii) Sitapur (xiii) Baharaich (xiv) Azamgarh (xv) Basti (Sidharthnagar) (xvi) Rai Bareilly (xvii) Gorakhpur (xviii) Sultanpur (xix) Deoria (xx) Pratapgarh (xxi) Varanasi (xxii) Kanpur (xxiii) Fatehpur (xxiv) Maou (xxv) Bhadohi (xxvi) Maharajganj (xxvii) Padrona (xxviii) Ambedkar Nagar (xxix) Kanpur Dehat.

(b) The standard staff strength of each Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre consists of one Assistant Director, one Handicrafts Promotion Officer, one Investigator, one Technical Assistant (Crafts)/Upper Division Clerk, one Lower Division Clerk and one Helper/Chowkidar.

(c) to (e) These centres have played an important role in facilitating development of handicrafts in the areas under their jurisdiction. However, keeping in view the vast areas that various centres spread all over the country have to cover, a proposal to add some more marketing centres has been initiated.

Buddhist Circuit for Foreign Tourists

3201. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are marketing the "Buddhist Circuit" for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken to encourage foreigners to visit Buddhist shrines;

(c) whether it is a fact that famous Biddhist sites and shrines in Andhra Pradesh have not been marketed to foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the reasons for neglecting Buddhist shrines of tourist interest in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India, is marketing the Buddhist circuit in niche markets overseas through its 17 tourist offices by way of advertising in print and electronic media, dissemination of information through brochures and video cassettes, organising of 'Know India' seminars and participation in travel marts. Promotion of Nagarjuna Konda in Andhra Pradesh is an integral part of this marketing strategy.

Outstanding dues of ITDC's Hotel Division

3202. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hotel Division under ITDC has outstanding a sum of Rs. 34.85 crore as on March 31, 1998 on account of unpaid bills by politicians and Government agencies;

(b) if so, the hotel-wise details of these outstanding dues and who are the prominent defaulters and amount outstanding against each of them; and

(c) what measures are being taken for the recovery of these dues and the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the risk of credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The total outstanding dues of Hotels Division as on 31 March 1998 were Rs. 34.85 crores (provisional) of which an amount of Rs. 7.60 crores was outstanding against political parties/political and Government Agencies. Hotelwise details of outstanding dues are given in Statement-I (*See* below). The details of prominent defaulters are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) Realisation of outstanding dues is a continuous process which include periodical reminders, personal contacts, periodical review both at the unit and Corporate level, seeking assistance from the administrative Ministry and resorting to